



January 7, 2008

## **FEMA Denies Disaster Declaration Appeal; Governor Requests SBA Assistance**

INDIANAPOLIS – In response to the denial of an appeal for a major disaster declaration for parts of Northern Indiana damaged by severe storms on October 18, Governor Mitch Daniels has submitted a request for additional assistance from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

“The denial of our appeal is very disappointing,” said Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) Executive Director J. Eric Dietz, “but we will continue to support these communities in any way we can.”

A letter dated January 4, from Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator R. David Paulison, stated that FEMA has determined the severity of damage caused by the storms does not warrant a major disaster declaration, therefore denying the appeal request.

A decision on SBA assistance is expected later this week.

In response to the October 18 storms, IDHS has provided overall direction, on-site coordination, response, and monitoring assistance to local and federal agencies, including FEMA. The IDHS Division of Fire and Building Safety also has provided technical assistance and inspection services, damage assessment information on homes, and monitoring of fire operations throughout the affected area.

Other state agencies that have assisted local efforts include the Indiana State Police, Indiana Department of Transportation, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Indiana Department of Insurance, Indiana Department of Workforce Development and the Indiana Regulatory Commission.

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